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TAGS: [ENRG](#) [ETTC](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [TRGY](#) [IN](#) [GM](#)

SUBJECT: NSG - GERMAN REACTION TO INDIA PRESENTATION ON
CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: A. UNVIE 762

[¶](#)B. BERLIN 2976

[¶](#)C. BERLIN 2506 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: EMIN Robert F. Cekuta for reasons 1.4 (b)
and (d).

[¶](#)1. (C) German MFA NSG Desk Officer Joerg Polster told Global Affairs officer October 20 that India's October 12 presentation on the margins of the NSG Consultative Group meeting (ref A), while helpful, had done little to change German thinking on civil nuclear cooperation with India. Polster stated the Indian presentation focused mainly on energy, without giving sufficient attention to nonproliferation. Polster said he hoped the follow-on Q&A helped India understand it must do more to engage the international community, not just the United States.

[¶](#)2. (C) Polster reiterated Germany would continue to watch legislative developments in Washington -- and India's reaction to the final text of U.S. legislation -- before taking a formal position. He said Germany would like to see convincing evidence that nuclear cooperation with India will strengthen the nonproliferation regime and reiterated Germany's expectation that India take concrete steps to demonstrate its commitment to nonproliferation (ref C). Polster said the NPT is a cornerstone of German foreign policy and pointed out that German FM Steinmeier, in an October 19 address to the German parliament, said Germany is committed to "putting the issue of nuclear disarmament back at the top of the political agenda," particularly in the context of its upcoming G-8 and EU presidencies.

[¶](#)3. (C) Polster said German insistence that India take concrete action to demonstrate its commitment to nonproliferation is driven by the necessity of convincing the German public -- and members of parliament inside and outside the coalition -- that civil nuclear cooperation will not support the production of nuclear weapons in India. Polster said the lack of specificity in India's separation plan, along with Indian insistence on an India-specific safeguards agreement with the IAEA, had not allayed such concerns. Polster said Germany welcomes Indian steps to strengthen its export controls, but added "the big questions have still not been resolved."

[¶](#)4. (C) Polster noted the Indian delegation that traveled to Vienna had met separately with the German delegation October [¶](#)10. Polster said the German delegation tried to convince Indian delegates to focus on persuading all NSG members, not just the United States. According to Polster, the German delegation pointed to German-Indian efforts to build a

strategic partnership and stressed the importance of building a stable foundation. Polster said the German delegation urged India to take concrete action to signal India's commitment to nonproliferation. In response, Polster said, the Indian delegation pointed to the Indian government's difficult domestic situation.

¶ 5. (C) While Germany has found high-level discussion with U.S. officials useful, Polster said, Germany sees a need for more high-level Indian engagement on the issue. Polster stressed Germany has not taken a negative position on the agreement, but -- before taking a positive position -- would like India to address the perception that civil nuclear cooperation will give India all of the benefits of being a nuclear weapons state without requiring it to assume the associated responsibilities. Polster said Germany would welcome further high-level Indian outreach and requested U.S. assistance in encouraging India to do so.

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